

UNIVERSITY OF TUNIS
Faculty of Human and Social Sciences
Department of English



المؤتمر الدولي لتقديم
خريجي قسم الانجليزية
كلية العلوم، الإنسانية والاجتماعية بتونس
**TUNISIAN INTERNATIONAL
ALUMNI CONFERENCE-TIAC**
FACULTY OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - UNIVERSITY OF TUNIS

**THE FIRST TUNISIAN INTERNATIONAL
ALUMNI CONFERENCE: TIAC 1
CALL FOR PAPERS**

Department of English, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences,
University of Tunis

In collaboration with

Arab Society of English Language Studies

Organizes an International Conference on:

«Alumni Feedback and Quality ELT in Higher Education»

NOVEMBER 3-4-5, 2022 - HÔTEL MEHARI - HAMMAMET, TUNISIA

Key Dates

Submission of proposals: July 15th, 2022

Notification of outcomes: July 30th, 2022

Early bird registration deadline: August 14th, 2022

Registration deadline: October 15th, 2022

It is our pleasure to invite you to the first International Conference titled “Alumni feedback and quality ELT in higher education” dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the first English language *Licence* (BA) awarded in 1962, six years after independence and four years after inaugurating the University of Tunis.

Although the number of past and present students in undergraduate and postgraduate English studies has considerably expanded, alumni voice, contribution and engagement in aid of enhancing the quality of English undergraduate studies have rarely been captured, recorded or capitalized in Tunisia. However, standards for quality assurance in higher education urge universities to rely on graduates’ feedback and recommendations to enhance the quality of their academic programs (Guskey, 2007; Labanauskis & Ginevicius, 2017; Leisfye & Westerheijden, 2014).

As early as the 1930s, leading higher education institutions, notably in the US, have collected alumni data to track graduates’ satisfaction with their academic programs and career development, and cultivate a sense of belonging to their universities (Pace, 1979; Pettit & Litten, 1999). Alumni/ae experiences are a great asset to their alma mater. They provide valuable feedback which could contribute to enhancing the quality of teaching and learning (Delaney, 2004). As this conference is based on the firm belief that the success of an institution depends, in large part, on its graduates, it does not only aim to give the Alumni/ae the chance to reunite with their peers and connect with other alumni and students but also actively engage in the advancement of the English Language studies in the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Tunis (FSHST) as well as in other English departments in Tunisia. For a multitude of reasons, establishing an alumni tradition is not common in higher education institutions in Tunisia or in most of the Arab region. Very few higher education institutions have established any form of alumni programs or attempted to cultivate alumni relations. We hope that this conference will inspire these institutions in Tunisia and in the region to establish alumni programs and to capitalize on Alumni feedback, engagement and support.

The main aim of the conference is to provide a forum for discussion on a broad spectrum of issues pertaining to establishing an alumni tradition and capitalizing on alumni feedback and recommendations for enhancing the quality of ELT programs in higher education.

Therefore, we invite the English department alumni as well as academic researchers in the area of English language studies, quality in higher education, higher education reform, higher education policies as well as alumni research to participate in the event. As we are aware that many other English departments have succeeded in building an alumni tradition all over the world, we would love to hear international colleagues and researchers share their experiences and research.

We are open to a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

1. International experiences of alumni traditions

- a. Source of feedback on educational programs
- b. Alumni philanthropy
- c. Alumni and quality higher education

2. The history of the English department

- a. The French model
- b. The introduction of linguistics
- c. Massification
- d. Globalization

3. Students: past, present and future

- a. The changing nature of students
- b. Mature students
- c. International students

4. Academics

- a. Recruiting and training academics
- b. Career prospects for academics



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c. Past, present and future challenges

5. Undergraduate Studies

a. Language skills:

- i. Teaching of the writing skills
- ii. Teaching of the speaking skills
- iii. Teaching of the reading skills
- iv. Teaching of the listening skills
- v. Teaching of grammar
- vi. Teaching of translation

b. Soft skills

- i. Teachers' and students' perspectives
- ii. Teaching and learning materials
- iii. Learning outcomes

c. *Civilization* / culture studies

- i. Advantages of teaching and learning *civilization* courses
- ii. Challenges
- iii. Solutions

d. Linguistics

- i. Advantages of teaching and learning “linguistics” courses
- ii. Challenges
- iii. Solutions

e. Literature

- i. Advantages of teaching and learning “literature” courses
- ii. Challenges
- iii. Solutions

6. Teaching English to non-English majors

a. Serving the needs of other departments

- i. Advantages
- ii. Challenges

iii. Solutions

7. Digital humanities

- a. Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL)
- b. Technology-mediated language learning / ICT
- c. Online teaching and learning
- d. Online English language resources
- e. Blended learning

8. English language studies and higher education reforms

- a. Different reforms to the English language studies
- b. LMD
- c. Post-2011 reforms

9. Graduates' employability

- a. The changing nature of the graduate profile and skills
- b. The nature of the Tunisian job market
- c. Employers' expectations and requirements



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Delaney, A. M. (2004). *Ideas to enhance higher education's impact on graduates' lives; alumni recommendations.* *Tertiary Education and Management*, 10(2), 89-105. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13583883.2004.9967120>

Guskey, T. R. (2005). *Multiple Sources of Evidence: An Analysis of Stakeholders' Perceptions of Different Indicators of Student Learning.* In ERIC. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED490413>

Labanauskis, R., & Ginevičius, R. (2017). *Role of stakeholders leading to development of higher education services.* *Engineering Management in Production and Services*, 9(3), 63-75. <https://doi.org/10.1515/emj-2017-0026>

Leisyte, L., Westerheijden, D., Epping, E., Faber, M., & De Weert, E. (2013). *Stakeholders and Quality Assurance in Higher Education.* <https://ris.utwente.nl/ws/files/6152965/Stakeholders-QA-IBAR-CHER2013.pdf>

Pace, C. R. (1979b). *Measuring outcomes of college: fifty years of findings and recommendations for the future.* In *Open WorldCat.* Jossey-Bass. <https://www.worldcat.org/title/measuring-outcomes-of-college-fifty-years-of-findings-and-recommendations-for-the-future/oclc/5565635>

Pettit, J., & Litten, L. H. (1999). *A new era of alumni research: improving institutional performance and better serving alumni.* Jossey-Bass Publishers.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

We invite proposals for contributions that discuss different aspects of alumni feedback and its impact on enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in higher education especially in regions that have not yet established an alumni tradition.

All proposals will be subject to double-blind peer review. Authors will be notified of the outcome of the process by **July 30th, 2022**.

Papers will be selected primarily based on academic merit, but we also hope to have a program where many English Language Studies cohorts (including current Ph.D. students) are represented. To submit a paper, send a short bio and a 250-word abstract (excluding references) to easy abstracts before July 15th, 2022.

<http://linguistlist.org/easyabs/TIAC1>

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE

Presenters who wish to have their final papers considered for publication should submit a copy by mail no later than November 5 th 2022.

REGISTRATION

Bookings **fully paid** prior to August 14th, 2022 qualify for our Early Bird Fees.

The Alumni reunion will take place on Thursday, November 3rd, 2022 in “Place Rouge” at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Blvd 9 Avril 1938 Tunis. The academic conference will be held in Hotel Mehari Hammamet on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th, 2022.

The reunion day will start at 9:00 in the Faculty and will include plenary sessions on the history of the English department as well as Alumni panel sessions discussing different changes that the English department has been undergoing. The aim of the first day is not only to enable at least three generations of the department graduates to reunite for the first time but also to create an opportunity for the younger graduates and current students to strengthen their sense of belonging to their university, think of possible career options and liaise with fellow alumni. Besides coffee and lunch breaks, a special networking time will be scheduled in the afternoon. The first edition of the Alumni book will be presented during the gala dinner on Thursday



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November 3rd. All alumni are strongly encouraged to join the academic conference that is going to be held on Friday 4th and Saturday November 5th, 2022 at Mehari Hotel, Hammamet. The main aim of the conference is to build interaction between the department's alumni and different international and Tunisian researchers and academics.

CONFERENCE FEES

Bookings fully paid prior to August 14th, 2022 qualify for our Early Bird Fees.

RESIDENTIAL RATES

International participants

OPTIONS	EARLY BIRD	STANDARD
nights 2	300\$	370\$
Conference participation only 1 day	100\$	125\$
Conference participation only 2 days	200\$	250\$
Additional night	100\$	120\$
Accompanying people	per night 100\$	120\$
Single room supplement	30\$	

Children: 02-12 years: 50%

Tunisian participants

OPTIONS	EARLY BIRD	STANDARD
nights 2	TND 300	TND 370
Conference participation only 1 day	TND 100	TND 150
Conference participation only 2 days	TND 200	TND 250
Additional night	TND per night 100	TND 120
Accompanying people	TND 100	TND 120
Single room supplement	TND 30	

Full-time students

OPTIONS	EARLY BIRD	STANDARD
nights 2	TND 240	TND 300
Conference participation only 1 day	TND 80	TND 120
Conference participation only 2 days	TND 160	TND 240
Additional night	TND per night 100	TND 120
Single room supplement	TND 30	

The full conference fees include two nights full board in a double room at Hotel Mehari Hammamet (Friday 4th and Saturday, November 5th, 2022), attendance at conference, two lunches, two coffee breaks, and two dinners.

PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Registration confirmation and hotel reservation will be made upon receipt of the Request by Email to alumniconf1@gmail.com as proof of payment. Payment can be made by Bank transfer using the following bank details:



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Payment reference: Participant alumni conference 2022

NB: Please send us a scanned copy of the Bank Transfer Order by Email to **alumniconf1@gmail.com** to confirm your participation, book your accommodation and schedule your presentation at the conference.

TRANSPORT FROM THE AIRPORT

Transfer by car from Tunis Carthage airport to the hotel costs 150 TND each way (3 passengers max) and from Enfidha airport to the hotel 130 TND.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Bookings made prior to August 14th, 2022 will be refunded if canceled by October 15th, less an administration fee of 50\$ for internationals and 50 TND for Tunisians. Bookings canceled after October 15th cannot be refunded but a substitute delegate can be added.

Should you have any queries concerning the conference or the accommodation, please do not hesitate to email alumniconf1@gmail.com or Tel/WhatsApp 0021698358930

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Conference chair: Raoudha Ben Othman

Afef Labben	Dhia Dali	Maha Mkaouem
Almontassar Bellah Taieb	Chaima Ben Amor	Nadia Hamrouni
Asma El Kefi	Hanene Zoghlami	Najla Meddeb
Awatef Ben Smida	Hela Turki	Nourchene Sadkaoui
Bechir Mechrgui	Imene Boujidene	Kawther Chatti
Olfa Boukraa	Soumaya Boughanmi	

Scientific Committee

Abdelwahab Ben Hfaeidh	Department of Sociology, FSHST, University of Tunis
Abedennebi Ben Beya	English department, FSHST, University of Tunis
Adel Hannachi	English department, ISSH, University of Jendouba
Afef Labben	English department, FSHST, University of Tunis
Ahlem Selmi	English department, ISSHT, University Tunis El Manar
Akila Sellami Baklouti	English department, FLSH, University of Sfax
Anouar Ben Hafsa	English department, FSHST, University of Tunis
Ezzeddine Saidi	English department, Higher Institute of Language, University of Gabes
Faiza Derbel	English department, FLM, University of Manouba
Hanene Zoghlami	English department, FSHST, University of Tunis
Hela Turki	English department FSHST University of Tunis
Hassan Zriba	English department, ISEAH, University of Gafsa
Lotfi Sayahi	University at Albany, State University of New York
Mimoun Melliti	English department; FLSH, University of Kairouan
Mohamed Jabeur	English department, ISLT, University of Carthage
Mohamed Riadh Ben Rejeb	Department of Psychology, FSHST, University of Tunis
Mohamed Salah Harzallah	English department, FLSH, University of Sousse



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Mounir Triki	English department, FLSH, University of Sfax
Nadia Hamrouni	English department, FSHST, University of Tunis
Nadia Konstantitni	English department, ISSHJ, University of Jendouba
Rim Triki	English department, ISSHT, University Tunis El Manar
Sadok Bouhlila	English department, FLM, University of Manouba
Salah Troudi	Graduate School of Education, University of Exeter
Samia Harbaoui	English department, FSHST, University of Tunis
Sondos Hamdi	English department, ISLT, University of Carthage